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Claim Amendments

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1. (currently amended) A method implemented by a push-to-talk wireless mobile terminal for communicating voice information comprising the steps of:

determining if a first input from a user of a first mobile terminal is made requesting that selectable acceptance management be initiated for incoming calls not yet initiated to the first mobile terminal;

if said determining step determines that the request has been made, transmitting from the first mobile terminal a first control message to a communication application server representing an instruction to implement selectable acceptance of future incoming calls to the first mobile terminal, where selectable acceptance includes storing at the communication application server an initial voice message associated with an incoming call to the first mobile terminal and transmitting the stored initial voice message to the first mobile terminal from the communication application server during a real-time communication session only upon the communication application server receiving a playback signal from the first mobile terminal where the playback signal is distinct from another signal generated by the first mobile terminal upon a depression of a push-to-talk button on the first mobile terminal.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of receiving at the first mobile terminal a first alert message from the communication application server representing an incoming call, and generating a first alert output conveying an incoming call request to a user of the first mobile terminal, the first alert message causing the first alert output to be unique to indicate that selectable acceptance is active, the first alert output being different from another alert output at the first mobile terminal associated with another incoming call to the first mobile terminal without selectable acceptance being implemented-, wherein the stored initial voice message transmitted to the first mobile terminal is transmitted from storage at the communication application server from the beginning of the voice message.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second input at the first mobile terminal from the user following the first alert output where the second input is one of selectable acceptance options selectable by the user of the first mobile terminal of action to be taken as part of the selectable acceptance and where the second input is generated by user operable input on the first mobile terminal that is not the push-to-talk button of the first mobile terminal;

transmitting by the first mobile terminal the playback signal to the communication application server in response to the second input.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3 further comprising the steps of receiving at the first mobile terminal the initial voice message so that the communication application server provides no indication to an originator of the initial voice message whether or not the initial voice message was delivered to the first mobile terminal, thereby preserving privacy of availability of the user of the first mobile terminal.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

alerting the user of the first mobile terminal of an incoming call from the calling party;

receiving a second input at the first mobile terminal from the user following the alerting where the second input is one of selectable acceptance options selectable by the user of the first mobile terminal of action to be taken as part of the selectable acceptance;

transmitting by the first mobile terminal a second control message to the communication application server in response to the second input where the second control message represents an instruction to the communication application server for the latter to implement a voice playback to the calling party of a stored voice message of availability status of the user of the first mobile terminal followed by automatic termination of the incoming call originated by the calling party, where said playback is not an announcement of a voice mail system.

6. Canceled.

7. (previously presented) A push-to-talk wireless mobile terminal for communicating voice information comprising:

means for determining if a first input from a user of a first mobile terminal is made requesting that selectable acceptance management of incoming calls yet to be initiated to the first mobile terminal;

means for transmitting from the first mobile terminal a first control message to a communication application server representing an instruction to implement selectable acceptance for future incoming calls to the first mobile terminal if said determining means determines that the request has been made, where selectable acceptance includes storing an initial voice message at the communication application server associated with an incoming call to the first mobile terminal and transmitting the stored initial voice message to the first mobile terminal from the communication application server during a real-time communication session only upon the communication application server receiving a playback signal from the first mobile terminal where the playback signal is distinct from another signal generated by the first mobile terminal upon a depression of a push-to-talk button on the first mobile terminal.

8. (currently amended) The mobile terminal of claim 7 further comprising means for receiving at the first mobile terminal a first alert message from the communication application server representing an incoming call, and means for generating a first alert output conveying an incoming call request to a user of the first mobile terminal, the first alert message causing the first alert output to be unique to indicate that selectable acceptance is active, the first alert output being different from another alert output at the first mobile terminal associated with another incoming call to the first mobile terminal without selectable acceptance being implemented, wherein the stored initial voice message transmitted to the first mobile terminal is transmitted from storage at the communication application server from the beginning of the voice message.

9. (previously presented) The mobile terminal of claim 7 further comprising:

means for receiving a second input at the first mobile terminal from the user following the first alert output where the second input is one of selectable acceptance options selectable by the user of the first mobile terminal of action to be taken as part of the selectable acceptance and where the second input is generated by user operable input on the first mobile terminal that is not the push-to-talk button of the first mobile terminal;

means for transmitting by the first mobile terminal the playback signal to the communication application server in response to the second input.

10. (previously presented) The mobile terminal of claim 9 further comprising means for receiving at the first mobile terminal the initial voice message so that the communication application server provides no indication to an originator of the initial voice message whether or not the initial voice message was delivered to the first mobile terminal, thereby preserving privacy of availability of the user of the first mobile terminal.

11. (previously presented) The mobile terminal of claim 7 further comprising:

means for alerting the user of the first mobile terminal of an incoming call from the calling party;

means for receiving a second input at the first mobile terminal from the user following the alerting where the second input is one of selectable acceptance options selectable by the user of the first mobile terminal of action to be taken as part of the selectable acceptance;

means for transmitting by the first mobile terminal a second control message to the communication application server in response to the second input where the second control message represents an instruction to the communication application server for the latter to implement a voice playback to the calling party of a stored voice message of availability status of the user of the first mobile terminal followed by automatic termination of the incoming call

originated by the calling party, where said playback is not an announcement of a voice mail system.

12 – 19. Canceled.

20. (currently amended) A method implemented by a communication application server that processes communications among users in a push-to-talk communication network comprising the steps of:

receiving a first control message from a first mobile terminal where the first control message represents an instruction to initiate a process providing selectable acceptance of yet to be received incoming calls to the first mobile terminal;

in response to the first control message, updating a stored presence state associated with the first mobile terminal to reflect that future incoming calls to the first mobile terminal will be processed in accordance with the selectable acceptance;

receiving, with selectable acceptance having been implemented by the first mobile terminal, an incoming call from a second mobile terminal for the first mobile terminal where a voice message from the second mobile terminal comprises part of the incoming call;

storing the voice message in memory;

transmitting an incoming call alert message to the first mobile terminal where the incoming call alert message does not contain the voice message;

receiving a ~~second control message~~ playback message from the first mobile terminal ~~representing one of a first and second request, where the playback message represents a first request~~ is to transmit the stored initial voice message from storage at the beginning of the voice message to the first mobile terminal during a real-time communication session only upon receipt of the playback message ~~first request, where the second request is to implement a voice playback~~

~~to the second mobile terminal of a stored voice message of availability status of the user of the first mobile terminal followed by automatic termination of the incoming call originated by the calling party, where said playback is not an announcement of a voice mail system, where the playback message~~
~~second control message~~ is different from a signal corresponding to depression of a push-to-talk button on the first mobile terminal.

21. Canceled.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 20 further comprising the initial voice message is transmitted to the first mobile terminal without providing any indication to the second mobile terminal of whether or not the initial voice message was delivered to the first mobile terminal, thereby preserving privacy of availability of the user of the first mobile terminal.

23. Canceled.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 20 further comprising transmitting a presence status update message to mobile terminals having the first mobile terminal as a Pal upon updating the presence state associated with the first mobile terminal to be in a selectable acceptance state, where the selectable acceptance state of the first mobile terminal is displayed on the Pal's mobile terminals as a unique state distinguishable from all other states.

25. (original) The method of claim 22 further comprising the step of not providing any indication to the second mobile terminal of the receipt of the second control message or that the first stored initial voice message was transmitted to the first mobile terminal.

26. (original) The method of claim 20 further comprising starting a timeout timer associated with the receipt of the incoming call where the timeout timer has a predetermined time period and upon the timeout timer reaching the predetermined time period causing processing of the incoming call to the first mobile terminal to be aborted.

27. (original) The method of claim 26 further comprising starting a timeout timer associated with the receipt of the incoming call where the timeout timer has a predetermined time period and upon the timeout timer reaching the predetermined time period, before receiving a reply communication from the first mobile terminal, causing processing of the incoming call to the first mobile terminal to be aborted.

28. (original) The method of claim 27 wherein the causing the processing of the incoming call to the first mobile terminal to be aborted includes deleting the initial voice message stored in memory.

29. (original) The method of claim 20 further comprising starting a timeout timer associated with the receipt of the incoming call where the timeout timer has a predetermined time period and upon receiving a reply communication from the first mobile terminal before the timeout timer reaching the predetermined time period, causing the initial voice message from the second mobile terminal to be transmitted to the first mobile terminal.

30. (currently amended) A communication application server that processes communications among users in a push-to-talk communication network comprising:

means for receiving a first control message from a first mobile terminal where the first control message represents an instruction to initiate a process providing selectable acceptance of yet to be received incoming calls to the first mobile terminal;

means for updating, in response to the first control message, a stored presence state associated with the first mobile terminal to reflect that future incoming calls to the first mobile terminal will be processed in accordance with the selectable acceptance;

means for receiving an incoming call, with selectable acceptance having been previously implemented by the first mobile terminal, from a second mobile terminal for the first mobile terminal where an initial voice message from the second mobile terminal comprises part of the incoming call;

means for storing the initial voice message in memory;

means for transmitting an incoming call alert message to the first mobile terminal where the incoming call alert message does not contain the initial voice message;

means for receiving a playback message~~second-control message~~ from the first mobile terminal ~~representing one of a first and second request, where the playback message represents a first request~~ is to transmit the stored initial voice message to the first mobile terminal during a real-time communication session only upon receipt of the playback message~~first request~~, where the ~~second request is to implement a voice playback to the second mobile terminal of a stored voice message of availability status of the user of the first mobile terminal followed by automatic termination of the incoming call originated by the calling party, where said playback is not an announcement of a voice mail system, where the playback message~~~~second-control message~~ is different from a signal corresponding to depression of a push-to-talk button on the first mobile terminal.

31-33. Canceled.

34. (previously presented) The communication application server of claim 30 further comprising means for transmitting a presence status update message to mobile terminals having the first mobile terminal as a Pal upon updating the presence state associated with the first mobile terminal to be in a selectable acceptance state, where the selectable acceptance state of the first mobile terminal is displayed on the Pal's mobile terminals as a unique state distinguishable from all other states.

35. (currently amended) The communication application server of claim ~~30~~³² further comprising means for preventing any indication from being sent to the second mobile terminal of the receipt of the playback message~~second-control message~~ and of an indication that the first stored initial voice message was transmitted to the first mobile terminal.

36. (original) The communication application server of claim 30 further comprising means for starting a timeout timer associated with the receipt of the incoming call where the timeout timer has a predetermined time period and means for causing processing of the incoming call to the first mobile terminal to be aborted upon the timeout timer reaching the predetermined time period.

37. (original) The communication application server of claim 36 further comprising means for starting a timeout timer associated with the receipt of the incoming call where the timeout timer has a predetermined time period and means for causing processing of the incoming call to the first mobile terminal to be aborted upon the timeout timer reaching the predetermined time period before receiving a reply communication from the first mobile terminal.

38. (original) The communication application server of claim 37 wherein the means for causing the processing of the incoming call to the first mobile terminal to be aborted includes means for deleting the initial voice message stored in memory.

39. (original) The communication application server of claim 30 further comprising means for starting a timeout timer associated with the receipt of the incoming call where the timeout timer has a predetermined time period and means for causing the initial voice message from the second mobile terminal to be transmitted to the first mobile terminal upon receiving a reply communication from the first mobile terminal before the timeout timer reaching the predetermined time period.

40-44. Canceled.

45. (previously presented) A method implemented by a communication application server that processes communications among users in a push-to-talk communication network comprising the steps of:

storing a presence state associated with a first mobile terminal to reflect that future incoming calls to the first mobile terminal will be processed in accordance with selectable acceptance;

receiving, following the storing step, a request from a second mobile terminal to initiate a call to the first mobile terminal, where an initial voice message from the second mobile terminal is received;

storing the initial voice message in memory;

transmitting an incoming call alert message which does not contain the initial voice message to the first mobile terminal;

where selectable acceptance causes the communication application server to permit the user of the first mobile terminal to elect on a call-by-call basis whether to have the initial voice message delivered to the first mobile terminal where receipt of a second control message from the first mobile terminal represents a request to transmit the stored initial voice message to the first mobile terminal during a real-time communication session only upon receipt of the first request, where the second control message differs from a push-to-talk signal received from the first mobile terminal, selectable acceptance inhibiting any transfer of information to the second mobile terminal regarding the election made by the user so that the originator of the voice message at the second mobile terminal cannot determine whether or not the voice message was delivered to the first mobile terminal, thereby protecting privacy of the user of the first mobile terminal.

46. (previously presented) A communication application server that processes communications among users in a push-to-talk communication network comprising:

means for storing a presence state associated with a first mobile terminal to reflect that future incoming calls to the first mobile terminal will be processed in accordance with selectable acceptance;

means for receiving, following the presence state being stored, a request from a second mobile terminal to initiate a call to the first mobile terminal, where an initial voice message from the second mobile terminal is received;

means for storing the voice message in memory;

means for transmitting an incoming call alert message which does not contain the initial voice message to the first mobile terminal;

means for implementing selectable acceptance so that the user of the first mobile terminal can elect on a call-by-call basis whether to have the initial voice message delivered to the first mobile terminal where receipt of a second control message from the first mobile terminal represents a request to transmit the stored initial voice message to the first mobile terminal during a real-time communication session only upon receipt of the first request, where the second control message differs from a push-to-talk signal received from the first mobile terminal, the implementing means inhibiting any transfer of information to the second mobile terminal regarding the election made by the user so that the originator of the voice message at the second mobile terminal cannot determine whether or not the voice message was delivered to the first mobile terminal, thereby protecting privacy of the user of the first mobile terminal.

47. (new) The method of claim 45 wherein the initial voice message delivered to the first mobile terminal is delivered from storage at the communication application server starting at the beginning of the voice message.

48. (new) The communication application server of claim 46 wherein the initial voice message delivered to the first mobile terminal is delivered from storage starting at the beginning of the voice message.